Child Care Compliance

2026 Quarter 1 Dashboard

January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026

Learn more about child care in Missouri here.

Amount of Time to Get Licensed

Licensed in less than 6 months

46%

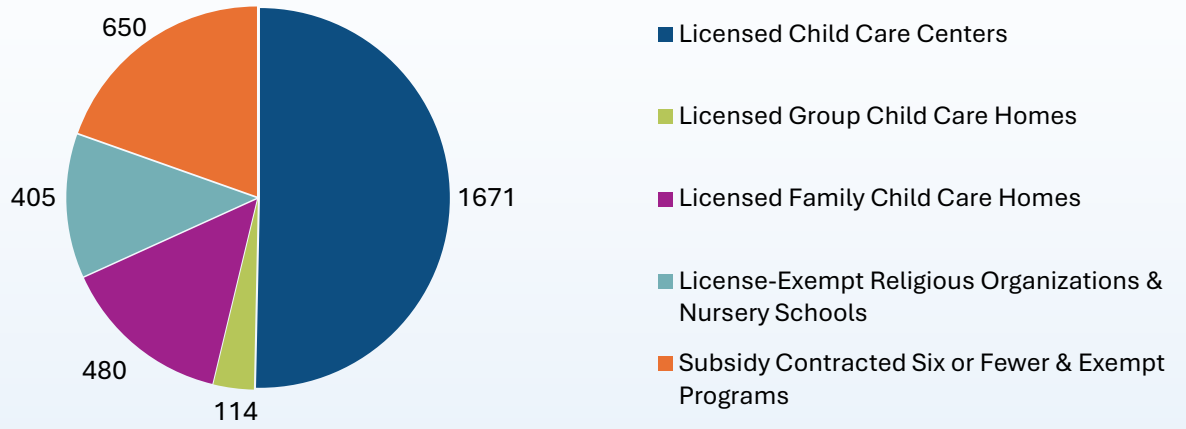
Licensed in 6 - 12 months

28%

Licensed in more than 12 months

26%

Number of Licensed, License-Exempt, and Subsidy Contracted Child Care Facilities



163,291

Total child care slots for all Licensed and License-Exempt child care facilities, excluding subsidy contracted providers

*Data as of April 1st, 2026

243

Facilities pending licensure and License-Exempt approval to operate, excluding subsidy contracted providers

*Data as of March 31st, 2026

1,617

Child care inspections completed in Licensed, License-Exempt, and Subsidy Contracted facilities from January 1st, 2026, to March 31st, 2026

313

Complaint investigations completed in Licensed, License-Exempt, and Subsidy Contracted facilities from January 1st, 2026, to March 31st, 2026

Event Highlights from Q1 2026

- Hosted a table for OOC Childcare Compliance at the MO-SECA Superhero Academy in Kansas City.
- Attended Conference of the Young Years in March 2026.
- Hosted 2 Child Care Licensing Informational sessions in the St. Louis area in March 2026.
- Other Meetings/Events Attended:
  - South Central Community Leaders
  - Moniteau County Quality Child Care Meeting
  - Callaway County Early Education Coalition
  - Northeast Community Stakeholder meeting
  - Northwest Community Stakeholder Meeting

Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, veteran status, mental or physical disability, or any other basis prohibited by statute in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Director of Civil Rights Compliance and MOA Coordinator (Title VI/Title VII/Title IX/504/ADA/ADAAA/Age Act/GINA/USDA Title VI), 7th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-522-1775 or TTY 800-735-2966; fax number 573-522-4883; email civilrights@dese.mo.gov

Office of Childhood Success at Every Stage

Child Care Regulations

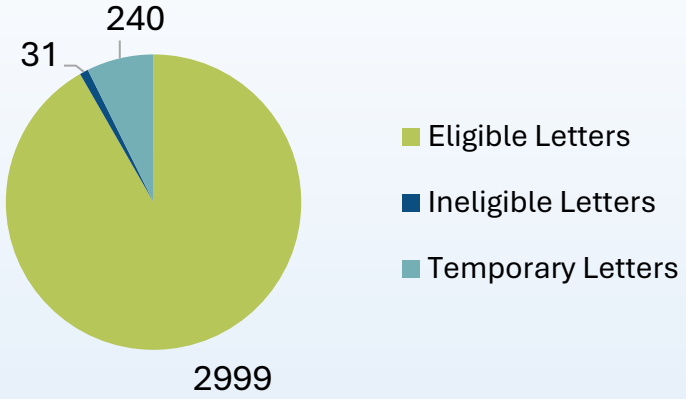
2026 Quarter 1 Dashboard

January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026

Learn more about child care in Missouri here.

Background Screening

3,270 Total Eligibility Letters Processed
from January 1st, 2026, to March 31st, 2026



Average Processing Time
(based on completion date)

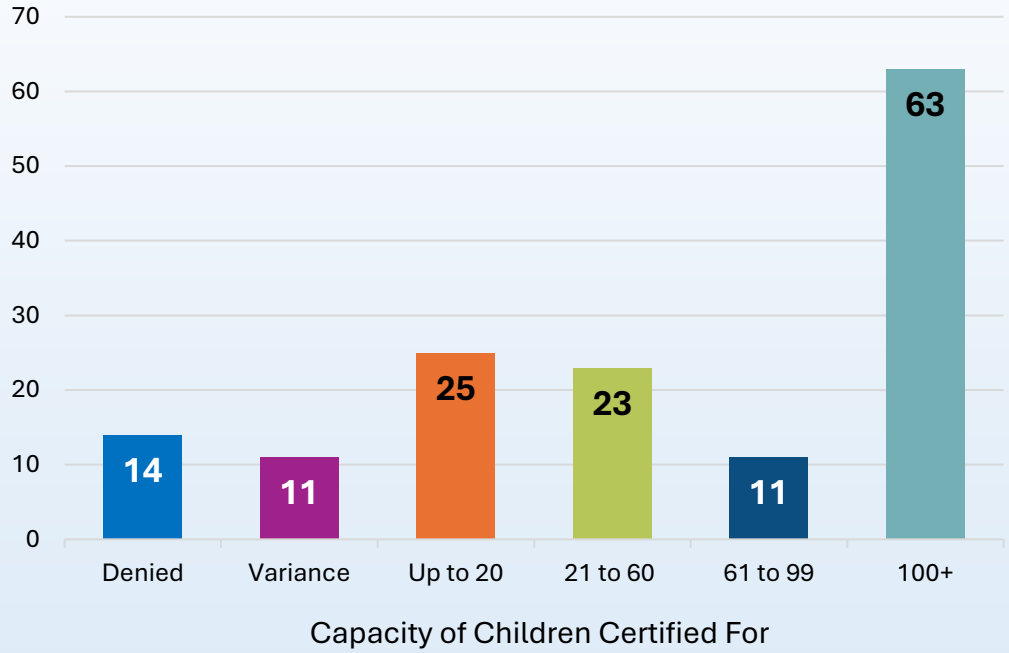
1 calendar day

Average Out-of-State Processing Time
(based on completion date)

37 calendar days

Director Certification

150 Total Requests Processed
from January 1st, 2026, to March 31st, 2026



Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, veteran status, mental or physical disability, or any other basis prohibited by statute in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Director of Civil Rights Compliance and MOA Coordinator (Title VI/Title VII/Title IX/504/ADA/ADAAA/Age Act/GINA/USDA Title VI), 7th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-522-1775 or TTY 800-735-2966; fax number 573-522-4883; email civilrights@dese.mo.gov

Office of Childhood Success at Every Stage